

NORTHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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COUNCIL OFFICES,
NORTHAM,
NORTH DEVON.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year
1972

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

C.J. UTTING, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.,
Public Health Inspector

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE - YEAR 1972

CHAIRMAN:	...	Mrs. E.M. Hilder
COUNCILLORS:	...	H.S. Clements Mrs. C.M. Congdon F.J.G. Dell Rev. R.C. Dixon R.H.K. Evers A.E. Ford (Vice Chairman of the Council) R.F. Hill Mrs. E.M.V. Patt F. Patt J.C. Seward J. Smith (Chairman of the Council) M.B.C. Sumner

STAFF

The staff of the Public Health Department consists of:-

Part-time Officers:

Doctor E. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health
R. Rowles, Rodent Operative
J. Spencer, Technical Assistant (from 10.7.1972)

Full-time Officers:

C.J. Utting, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Public Health Inspector
Mrs. Caroline Parsons, Clerk/Shorthand/Typist (up to 17.9.1972)
Mrs. R. Jane Peacock, Clerk/Shorthand/Typist (from 15.9.1972)

Telephone Numbers:

Public Health Department	Hours - 8.45a.m. - 5.15p.m. (from 1.4.73 Friday 8.45a.m. - 4.45p.m.) Bideford 4976 (3 lines)
Medical Officer of Health	Barnstaple 72511 - Ext.278
Public Health Inspector	Residence - Bideford 4927

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report of the health and environmental conditions of the Northam Urban District for the year 1972.

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	3,833
Population (Registrar-General's Mid Year Estimate)	8,140
Population at 1971 Census	7,997
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1972)	£292,192
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1972/73)	£2,860
General Rate in the £ for Year 1972/73	87½p
No. of Inhabited Houses (as at 1st April, 1972)	3,439
No. of Council Houses (as at 31st December, 1972)	431
Density of Persons Per House	2.37

VITAL STATISTICS

Births: Area Comparability Factor	1.41
Deaths: Area Comparability Factor	0.6

LIVE BIRTHS

Number	62
Rate per 1,000 population	7.6
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. factor	10.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of Total live births	13
Birth Rate - England & Wales per 1,000 population	14.8

STILL BIRTHS

Number	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	16
Total live and still births	63
Infant death (death under 1 year)	Nil

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	19
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	Nil
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 total live and still births)	16

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Including Abortions)

Number of deaths	0
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0
Deaths	155
Death rate per 1,000 population	19
Death rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. factor	11.4
Death rate - England & Wales per 1,000 population	12.1

BIRTHS

During the year there were 62 births which was 22 less than occurred in 1971

Live Births:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	26	28	54
Illegitimate	4	4	8
			<u>62</u>

Still Births:-

One still birth occurred during the year.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Urban District residents during the year was 155

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
73	82	155

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

One infant death occurred.

Maternal Mortality

No deaths of mothers in childbirth occurred during the year.

Cancer deaths

There were 22 deaths due to cancer as compared with 29 in 1971

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Buccal Cavity	2	0
Oesophagus	0	1
Larynx	1	0
Intestine	1	0
Lungs and Bronchus	8	1
Uterus	-	1
Prostate	1	-
Breast	0	2
Leukaemia	0	1
Others	1	2
	<u>14</u>	<u>8</u>

Infectious Diseases

During the year 3 cases of infectious diseases were notified.

Measles	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Infective Hepatitis	1

There was one death from lung tuberculosis during the year.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1972 IN NORTHAM U.D.C.

Cause of Death	Sex	Total	Under	4Weeks	1- 5- 15- 25- 35- 45- 55- 65- 75-	and over
		All Ages	4 Weeks and Under	1 Year		
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	M	-				
	F	1				
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	M	1				
	F	-			1	
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	M	2				
	F	-				1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	M	-				
	F	1				
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	M	1				1
	F	-				
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	M	1				1
	F	-				
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	8				
	F	1			1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M	-				
	F	2				
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	F	1				1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	M	1				1
Leukaemia	M	-				
	F	1				
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	1				1
	F	2				
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1				1
	F	1				1
Anaemias	M	-				
	F	1				
Other Diseases of Nervous System	M	1				1
	F	2				
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	M	-				
	F	2				
Hypertensive Disease	F	1				
	M	1				
Ischaemic Heart Disease	F	1				1
	M	30				
	F	28			2	8 18
Other Forms of Heart Disease	M	3			2	8 19
	F	4			1	3 4

National Assistance Act, 1947

This Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of elderly persons who are in need of care and attention to County Welfare Homes. No action was taken under this Act during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Immunisation and Vaccination

Protective immunisation and vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics.

There are two Infant Welfare Clinics in the Urban District; one at Northam and one at Appledore. Clinics are held fortnightly.

2. Meals on Wheels

A meals on wheels service is provided for the aged in the North Devon area, prepared at Fairlea County Welfare Home. Meals are prepared twice weekly and are delivered by the Women's Voluntary Service.

3. Infectious Diseases

There is an Infectious Diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford which serves Northam as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

4. Smallpox

All smallpox cases are sent to LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital, Plymouth. The Ambulance Service will provide transport for smallpox cases. Telephone no. Plymouth 64101.

5. County Welfare Home

There is one County Welfare Home for the aged at "Fairlea", Northam.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my eighth annual report on the administration of the environmental health of the Urban District of Northam for the year 1972.

I would like to thank members of the Council and Staff for their support during the year and I am indebted to the Public Health Department of Bideford Borough Council for their assistance with a locum arrangement when I am absent from the district.

I am,
Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

C.J. Utting.

COMPLAINTS

There follows an analysis of all complaints of nuisances, etc., received from members of the public during the year.

Rats and Mice	63
Choked Drains and Sewers	16
Insects	9
Housing Defects	7
Smell	6
Noise	1
Refuse Disposal	1
Atmospheric Pollution	6
Infectious Diseases, etc.	2
Overcrowding	1
Drinking Water Pollution	1
Dirty Premises	1
Unsatisfactory Caravan Sites	1
Welfare	1
Unsatisfactory Food	3
Offices and Shop Workers' Welfare	1
Unsatisfactory Sanitation	1
Swimming Pools	1

A record of complaints over the last eight years is as follows:-

1965	...	117	1969	...	301
1966	...	149	1970	...	338
1967	...	211	1971	...	282
1968	...	297	1972	...	122

It is pleasing to note that the number of complaints received is continuing to decline.

HOUSE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Below is a summary of the standard and improvement grants dealt with by the department for the Urban District of Northam during 1972:-

Standard Grants

Applications received	7
Applications approved	6
Amount of total grants approved	£1,815
Grants paid	4
Amount of grants paid	£1,252

Improvement Grants

Applications received	69
Applications approved	78
Total amount of grants approved	£87,653
Grants paid	40
Amount of grants paid	£34,763

The Council's generous policy of improving sub-standard property instead of slum clearance has given areas of older houses a general uplift, especially in Appledore. This attitude will help to maintain a community spirit in these older villages but it is unfortunate that so many cottages have been sold as second homes or holiday cottages.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANT'S VISITS
DURING THE YEAR ENDING 1972

GENERAL

Water supply	7
Drainage	76
Stables and Piggeries	2
Hairdressers and Barbers	3
Caravan Sites/Camping Sites	25
Rent Acts	20
Shops Act (Sunday Trading)	1
Bakehouses	1
Licensed Premises	1
Insect Pests	5
Refuse Disposal	3
Pest Control (Rats and Mice)	1
Clean Air	16
Shops and Offices	14
Noise	10
Miscellaneous Visits	34
Swimming Pools	4
Tree Preservation	4

HOUSING

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

No. Premises Inspected	15
Re-visits paid to above premises	5

UNDER HOUSING ACTS

No. Houses Inspected	22
Re-visits paid to above	10

FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

Miscellaneous Housing Visits	30
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Informal Survey	180
Formal Survey	67
Work in Progress	71
Final Survey	54

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	2
Visits re Disinfection	1
Miscell. Infectious Disease Visits	1

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Visits to: Shops & Stalls	1
Other Premises	1
Hotels	1
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Butchers	1
Dairies and Milk Distributors	1
Grocers	4
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	1
Icecream premises	2
Restaurants	3
Institutions	1
Licensed Premises	2

VISITS IN CONNECTION WITH SAMPLING OF:

Water	10
Miscellaneous Food Visits	9
No Access Visits	29

TOTAL 755

Water Supply

The water supply in the district is undertaken by the North Devon Water Board and has been satisfactory in bacteriological quality. Throughout the year the North Devon Water Board have taken a total of 50 bacteriological samples of drinking water, all of which have been examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service, and 48 were found to be satisfactory. The 2 unsatisfactory samples were probably due to contamination by the sampling process and where a further samples was taken, the result was satisfactory. During the summer the quantity of water was found to be insufficient for periods of short duration. This is considered to be due to the large influx of holidaymakers in the area when the population rises to an estimated residential total of 18,000.

It is recommended that Local Authorities also arrange for independent sampling of supplies but no samples have been taken this year.

Only very few houses are known to be without a water supply direct into the house.

Swimming Pools

There are nine swimming pools in the area, including two school pools which are supervised by the County Council, plus two children's paddling pools. Visits are normally made to these pools during the summer months and the pool supervisors are advised on the proper chlorination, filtration and clarity, etc. Where necessary, the swimming pool water is tested to establish the correct dosage of chlorine. In order to economize on the costs of sampling, no bacteriological samples were submitted for examination and visits were made only after complaints had been received and not as a matter of routine.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The facilities for disposal of sewage in the area, either by untreated discharge to the river or sea, or by septic tank treatment and land drainage, are generally unsatisfactory. The existing main sewers are continually being added to as new housing estates are developed and, under certain conditions, are subject to a surcharge.

Caravan Sites

There are 14 licensed caravan sites in the district varying in size from 1 to 200. Residential caravans are permitted on 7 sites. The Council is responsible for the control of caravan sites by the issue of a licence to which there is attached general conditions. These conditions refer to number, site density, spacing, fire fighting, sanitary accommodation, good order, etc. Visits have been made only after receipt of a complaint.

Maximum permitted number of licensed caravans	993
Maximum permitted number of holiday caravans	891
Actual number of holiday caravans	896
Maximum permitted number of residential caravans	102
Actual number of residential caravans	100

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The part of this legislation that is enforced by the Council covers the health, safety and welfare of people who are employed in offices and shops. The Act deals with cleanliness, overcrowding, lighting, temperature, sanitary accommodation, ventilation and safety.

Accidents: All accidents that occur must be notified to the Council and an investigation must take place to establish the cause so that a recurrence may be prevented.

No notifications were received this year.

Exemptions: Application can be made for exemption from the requirements of the Act concerning space, temperature, sanitary convenience and washing facilities.

No applications for exemption were received this year.

Registration and General Inspection

	New Registrations	Total Number of Registered Premises	Number of Premises Inspected
<u>Premises</u>			
Offices	-	2	-
Retail Shops	-	53	1
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments and Canteens	-	26	2
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	-	81	3

Persons Employed in Registered Premises

<u>Class of Workplace</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Offices	3	2	5
Retail Shops	35	79	114
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	-	-	-
Catering Establishments and Canteens	85	224	309
Fuel Storage Depots	-	-	-
TOTALS	123	305	428

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	1
5	Overcrowding	-
6	Temperature	-
7	Ventilation	1
8	Lighting	
9	Sanitary Conveniences	
10	Washing Facilities	
11	Supply of Drinking Water	
12	Clothing Accommodation	
13	Sitting Facilities	
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers)	
15	Eating Facilities	
16	Floor, Passage and Stairs	1
17	Fencing Exposed Parts Machinery	
18	Protection of Young Persons from Dangerous Machinery	
19	Training of Young Persons Working at Dangerous Machinery	
23	Prohibition of Heavy Work	
24	First Aid	1
50	Information	3
	Other Matters	1
	TOTAL	8

Factories

The Council are responsible for securing the provision of cleanliness, overcrowding, lighting, temperature, sanitary accommodation, ventilation and drainage in all non-mechanical factories, and the provision of sanitary accommodation in mechanical factories.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	1	0	0	0
2. Factories not included in 1, in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	20	0	0	0
3. Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	0	0	0	0
<u>TOTALS</u>	21	0	0	0

At present inspections are carried out only on complaint. No complaints have been received this year.

Outwork

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	Number of Outworkers in August list (s.133 1c)	Number of cases in default in sending lists.	Number of Prosecutions for failure to send list.	Notices served	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	31	0	0	0	0	0

Animal Boarding Establishments

According to the Act of 1963, the Council are responsible for the licensing of boarding establishments for cats and dogs. A Licence is issued subject to the premises complying with conditions relating to the number and types of animals, construction and size of quarters, heating, ventilation, lighting, water supply, food storage, disposal of excreta, fire prevention and isolation facilities.

Only one establishment is licensed for a total of 15 dogs and 14 cats but a total not exceeding 23 animals. The premises are satisfactory and the licence has been renewed again this year.

Common Lodging Houses

A Local Authority is responsible for the registration of common lodging houses and the keepers so as to secure certain standards of accommodation.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Pest Control

A part-time Rodent Operative is now engaged to deal with the rodent population in the main sewers. A Test Baiting, using Warfarin S.T., was undertaken and all manholes were clear of an infestation.

The 63 complaints of pests are as follows:-

Rats : 37 Mice : 26

Following complaints of rats and mice, the Rodent Operative visited and laid poison bait, making the necessary follow-up visits until the infestation had been cleared. All visits made to private properties are conducted free of charge.

Permanent checks are kept on the refuse tip on Northam Burrows, Cleveland's Park Sewage Works and the irrigation field at Buckleigh.

All agricultural premises are inspected every six months in order to eradicate any rodent infestation.

No. of Agricultural Premises	25
No. of Agricultural Premises infested with rats	10
No. of Agricultural Premises infested with mice	-

The visits made by the Rodent Operative are summarised as follows:-

	<u>No. of Visits</u>
Rats	447
Mice	167
Insects	1

In connection with the above, 330 visits were made to domestic premises and 171 visits to business premises.

FOOD CONTROL

1. Food Premises

The Food Hygiene legislation requires that the Council, from time to time, inspect premises where food is sold, stored or prepared for sale for human consumption, in order to secure certain standards.

The following is a summary of Food Premises in the District that are subject to inspections:-

Groceries and General Provisions Shops	29
Restaurants, Canteens and Cafes	19
Licensed Premises	19
Hotels and Holiday Camps	21
Sweets and Confectionery Shops	12
Butchers' Shops	10
Greengrocers' Shops	3
Ice-cream Premises	39
Bread and Cake Shops	3
Dairies	2
Bakehouses	3
Fish Frying Shops	4
Public Entertainment Halls	2
Nursing Homes	5
Poultry Slaughterhouses	1
Food Preparing Premises	1
Ice Cream Factories	1

TOTAL 174

All the above premises comply with the provisions of Regulation 16 (wash-hand basins) and 19 (sinks) of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

2. Food Delivery Vehicles and Stalls, etc.

Regulations are in force dealing with vehicles, etc., where open food may be handled. Vehicles are required to be provided with sinks, wash-hand basins and hot water supplies. It is not generally known how many vehicles are operating in the area. Inspections have been carried out only after complaints have been made by the Public.

Estimated number of delivery vehicles, mobile shops,	
	etc. 30
Number of Stalls	5

3. Food Sampling

a. General Food and Drugs Sampling

The following samples were taken by the Devon County Council, being the statutory Foods and Drugs Authority for this District.

<u>Samples</u>	<u>No. Taken</u>	<u>Results</u>
Food and Drugs Act, all types of food	26	All were of required standard
Food and Drugs Act, milk samples	7	All were genuine & free from
Milk sampled for Brucella organisms	17	All negative (Antibiotics)
Milk and Dairies Order, milk sampled for keeping quality and efficient pasteurisation	10	All satisfactory
School Milk Samples	4	All satisfactory
School Drinking Water Samples	4	All satisfactory
School Swimming Pool Samples	6	All satisfactory
Shell Fish for Cadmium content	2	Limpets 2.4 parts per million Winkles 0.45 parts per million

I am indebted to the County Public Health Inspector for supplying me with the above information.

b. Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulation, 1963

These regulations require the pasteurisation of the liquid egg to be used in food intended for sale for human consumption, other than egg broken up on the food manufacturers' premises. Although there are no liquid egg pasteurisation plants in the district, liquid egg is used by two bakeries.

Samples of liquid egg can be taken from the bakeries for examination by the Alpha-Amylase test at the Taunton Public Health Laboratories but no samples were taken this year.

4. Unfit Food

If a person has in his possession, food that is intended for sale for human consumption but is unfit, then an offence has been committed and if any food is found that is unfit a Public Health Inspector has the power to seize the food and take it before a Justice of the Peace for an order of condemnation. This is a very rare occurrence and, in practice, there has developed a trade relationship where a Public Health Inspector is called to examine food and if the food is found to be unfit, it is then voluntarily surrendered for disposal.

During the year, 43lb. of food has been inspected, found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered for disposal by the Council.

5. Food Complaints

The Devon County Council are the Food and Drugs Authority for the District and there is a close liaison between the two Public Health Departments. All food complaints are referred to the County Council if action is considered necessary. The following complaints have been received during the year:-

Food complaints from the Public

Loaf with mould	Fine £20, Costs £4.75
Curry sauce mix - rancid	Warning letter
Calypso Orange drink - mould	Warning letter
Pasties with mould	Warning
Apple tarts containing paint	Fine £5, Costs £6.50
Foreign body in loaf	Proved to be edible grease; warning letter
Loaf with mould	Fine £20, Costs £8.50

Poultry Inspection

Number of poultry processing premises within the district	2
Number of visits to these premises	0
Types and number of birds processed during the year:-	
Chickens (estimated)	425
Hens (estimated)	<u>100</u>
	525
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption (est'd)	4%
Weight of poultry condemned as unfit for human consumption (est'd)	50lbs.

These premises should be processing birds under satisfactory conditions with the minimum of cruelty. Insufficient time is available for an inspection of the carcasses during the slaughtering process and great reliance is placed on the processor for voluntary inspection and withdrawal of birds that are unfit for human consumption.

